

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please insert the following paragraph before the first sentence of the application at page 1, line 1:

This application claims the benefit of International Application No. PCT/EP2003/013210 filed on November 25, 2003 under 35 U.S.C. §371, entitled, "Method and Plant for the Thermal Treatment of Granular Solids" which claims the benefit of German Patent Application No. 102 60 744.3 filed on December 23, 2002.